General Assembly

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Agenda item 112

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/58/503)*]

58/153. Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and its resolution 57/186 of 18 December 2002 on the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Appreciating the concerted efforts of the High Commissioner in undertaking consultations with the Secretary-General, the members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and observers of its Standing Committee, through the process known as "UNHCR 2004", on how the Office of the High Commissioner could be better equipped to carry out its mandate in the changing context of the global situation, and noting that this is in support and in the context of the goals, objectives and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on strengthening the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to carry out its mandate,[2] as called for in resolution 57/186;

2. *Reaffirms* that international protection and the search for durable solutions for refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, which were examined, inter alia, in the Global Consultations on International Protection process and are reflected in the Agenda for Protection,[3] are the core of the mandate of the Office;

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/58/410.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/57/12/Add.1), annex IV.

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen its linkages with the other parts of the United Nations system in order to enhance refugee protection and to identify and implement durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern to the Office, and appreciates its efforts to strengthen partnerships with operational and implementing partners;

4. *Welcomes* the admission of the Office to the United Nations Development Group, and invites the Development Group to include, through the resident coordinator system and in full consultation with the Government concerned, consideration of the needs of refugees and, as applicable, other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in the common country assessment process and the subsequent formulation and implementation of their development programmes;

5. *Notes* the importance of the support of the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate, to the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to promote predictable and timely United Nations strategies that, inter alia, integrate durable solutions for refugees with those for internally displaced persons;

6. *Highlights* the importance of joint efforts of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, together with those of the Office of the High Commissioner, which contribute to durable solutions for refugees in conflict and post-conflict situations, encourages the Office to play a more active role, including by sharing information with relevant United Nations forums, and stresses that all of these activities should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the mandate of the Office;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls for its application;

8. *Reaffirms* the continued voluntary nature of the funding of the Office of the High Commissioner in accordance with its statute, while recognizing the importance of contributions made by countries hosting refugees, especially developing countries, notes the need for more equitable international responsibility and burden-sharing and expresses concern over the recurring shortfall in the funding of the Office, requests that States, within their capacities, contribute to the full funding of the budget level approved by the Executive Committee, and encourages the Office to continue its efforts to expand its donor base and to diversify funding sources, including through the private sector;

9. *Decides* to remove the temporal limitation on the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner contained in its resolution 57/186 and to continue the Office until the refugee problem is solved;

10. *Decides also* that the High Commissioner shall make an annual oral report to the Economic and Social Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office and shall continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute, of presenting an annual written report to the General Assembly, on the understanding that every ten years, beginning at the sixty-eighth session, the report will include a strategic review of the global situation of refugees and the role of the Office, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Executive Committee.

77th plenary meeting
22 December 2003